

MRS. RUIZ REJOICES OVER LEE'S REPORT.

Consul-General's Findings Raise the Widow's Hopes
That McKinley Will No Longer
Hesitate.

Says Every Word in the Statement of the Government's
Representative at Havana Regarding Her
Husband's Fate Is True.

Editor New York Journal:

BRAVE, honest, good General Lee! His report is true and just in every particular, and I am rejoiced that the facts of my poor husband's cruel fate have been laid so strongly before Mr. McKinley, President of my husband's country.

I thank you for enabling me to read the Consul-General's report of the investigation for which Mr. Calhoun was sent to Cuba by the present Administration. The hopes that were raised by my visit to Washington, thanks to your interest in my case, are apparently to be realized after all, for with such a report to work upon I cannot but believe that President McKinley and Secretary Sherman will not hesitate to secure me that justice which their own words to me in the White House and at the State Department led me to expect at their hands.

They cannot indemnify me for the death of my husband. Millions and millions of dollars could not secure his return to me. I can never hope to be avenged. I can certainly never hope to be indemnified for his murder, but my children cry out even for the very necessities of life, and those who took their natural protector from them should at least be made to provide for their bringing up.

I know that the United States Government will not fail me. I have ever felt full confidence in this country's ability and disposition to right the wrong that was done to me and my children for no other cause than that my husband and their father was a citizen of this country, and delighted in the fact. His American citizenship was the only reason of his arrest. His American citizenship was the only reason of his foul murder in his lonely cell in that foul Guanabacoa jail.

Consul Lee is right in his first conclusion that the charge against my husband was false. He had no more to do with the attack on the train than my little three-year-old child Gloria, for both of them were peacefully asleep at home at the time of the affair. If he were not at home at that time, then Gloria was not—it would be equally absurd to claim that she was away that night without my knowledge as to say that he was.

Almost a month and a half elapsed between the attack on the train and my husband's arrest. During all that time he was not missed a single day or hour in Guanabacoa. If he had been in the attack the authorities would have known the next day, and they certainly would have arrested him forthwith. Why, then, did they wait so long?

The fact is that at the time that he was arrested there was a particularly strong feeling against Americans in Guanabacoa, and the Spaniards sacrificed my husband for no other reason.

Ricardo was killed. He did not kill himself. He was not the sort of a man to despair and abandon hope. His message on the chair, scratched with his finger nails—"They are killing me"—moreover, proves this.

Other proofs that his brutal jailers beat him to his death are in my possession. The hat that he wore when he was ruthlessly taken from our quiet and happy home on that fateful morning and led to prison was practically new. It is battered and torn exactly as if it had been struck again and again with a stick. It is the hat that he wore while in prison. Though broken in several places, it is easily seen that it was not worn into the condition in which it was when the jailers gave it to me, unaware of the powerful evidence it bore against them, together with my husband's other effects after his death.

Did he wear it when beating his head against the wall—as the Spaniards claim he did in his attempt to end the life that they themselves had made unbearable for him? Certainly this is ridiculous. Is it not more likely that it was ruined and broken by the blows that were rained upon him with sticks and clubs, perhaps with the butt end of guns?

The blows that this battered hat register are blows that descended upon my poor husband's head. Can a woman think of such things without her blood boiling within her, and without wishing that she were a man with a mighty arm to strike, that such grievous wrongs might be avenged?

The attempt of the Spanish Government to show that things were allowed to be taken to my husband in his cell to make him comfortable is ridiculous. If there was such a disposition on the part of the jail authorities, why did they, for thirteen days, refuse his wife the permission that she sought again and again to take or send him articles for his comfort? On the fourteenth day they relaxed and allowed a steamer chair that I had sent to him to pass.

The testimony of the witnesses called by the Commissioners, as General Lee declares, could not but be worthless in the main. I know Rafael Galindo, who is mentioned in General Lee's report. He is a Government clerk, and could not be expected to say a word that would jeopardize his position, if not his liberty. Juan de Gratacos was another witness. He wrote to me, telling of his testimony to Mr. Calhoun. I have just received his letter. He says that he was summoned, together with Senor Galindo and a brother of my husband, and he declares that his testimony was given without fear and sharply.

"I told the Commission," Senor de Gratacos writes, "that if Dr. Ruiz had not been kept incommunicado so long he would not now have been dead, and that one day I was in the back yard of Dr. Gimenez's house (which is behind the jail), when I heard the doctor calling to me at the top of his voice. 'Don Juan! Don Juan!' he said, but as I knew that he was incommunicado I did not go to the prison. If he had seen me and given me the message that he probably wanted to deliver, perhaps he would not now be dead."

President McKinley is a just man and a man of family. He saw the helplessness of my children. He spoke kindly to them, and he bade me be of good cheer and bear up bravely. Convinced as he will be by General Lee's brave words, I have no doubt that he will see that justice is done. I expect that he will make a demand upon Spain for a reclamation, that my children may be supported and educated. They have never until now wanted for anything. We have never until now been separated, and I and their three little sisters with me feel keenly the absence of my two little boys in the Catholic asylum. I expect that Spain will be made to enable me to bring up my family in the way in which my husband would have provided had he not been taken away.

Mr. Sherman assured me that he would secure justice for me. He looked at my children with the tenderness of a father, and spoke in what seemed particularly kindly tones to them.

For all this my thanks go out to the great Journal, for to the Journal's activity in my behalf and the behalf of my fatherless children much that has been done is due.

Rita Lesca V. de Ruiz

ing. Be obedient to your mother. They will kill me. If I am taken to Havana tell everything. Good-by; Rita of my soul.

This chair, Mrs. Ruiz says, she sent for after her husband's death, and I have seen lately persons in whose statements I place reliance that the writing around the rim of the back was not discovered, as the chair was of light color and the indented letters not distinct, for some days after it had been returned to her house.

I make these statements because I found that witnesses who had testimony unfavorable to the Spanish authorities would not give it, for obvious reasons, and if the right to make them appear was exercised, it would result, they said, in their giving non-committal evidence, for in their opinion the mere fact of being summoned would make them "suspects" considered

disloyal to the Spanish authorities on the island.

An autopsy was held on his body on the afternoon of the 18th at Guanabacoa, participated in by two Spanish doctors—viz., Francisco Vidal Alvando and Jose Martinez Castillon, and Dr. D. M. Burgess, the United States Sanitary Inspector at this port, at which the United States Consul-General WAS NOT PRESENT. That said autopsy, signed by the two Spanish doctors, declared Dr. Ruiz's death resulted from cerebral congestion; that on the apex or top of the head of deceased there was found a contusion or wound which is described by the Spanish doctors as being a "small abrasion," which only involved the first surfaces of the skin, about a centimetre long, more or less, a centimetre



Special Commissioner W. J. Calhoun.

being about two-fifths of an inch, but which is described by Dr. Burgess as being "a severe contusion of about an inch and a half long by a half inch wide."

I deduce from my knowledge of the facts, the following conclusions:
First—Dr. Ruiz was arrested on a false charge.

Second—He was placed under an improper jurisdiction, and died before the proper tribunal considered his case, thereby giving him no opportunity to prove his innocence.

Third—That he was kept "incommunicado" in a solitary cell for 315 hours, in violation of his treaty rights, which limit such confinement to seventy-two hours.

Fourth—He died from congestion of the brain, produced by a blow on the top of the head.

Fifth—There are two theories connected with the wound on the head. One that in a state of mental excitement he ran across the cell as described by one of the jailers, and butted his head on the door in a frantic effort to get out. Another, that he was struck over the head with one of the clubs carried by the jailers—by the immediate watchman—who had probably ordered him to cease his cries for relief and for his children, and upon his not doing so struck him with more force than he intended, or it is possible the blow was delivered to make him confess or give evidence against others.

It is possible he went mad, and many causes combined to produce such a result.

His knowledge of his own innocence—his confinement in a gloomy cell, where he was not allowed to communicate with family or friends—or to send or write. Alone, all alone, the thought doubtless impressed itself upon his mind that he was liable in the reign of terror then existing in and around Guanabacoa to be summarily executed at any moment. He loved his wife and children and in the darkness and loneliness of his cell he was constantly crying out for them. The thought that they were but a few rods away and yet he never saw them again or hear the sound of their voices or feel the touch of their lips and hands haunted him and proved too much for the mind of the distracted and unhappy man, and I thought it not improbable as the long hours passed by, it may have given way and left him a madman. His wife says his derby hat was all battered up and his clothes greatly torn when returned to her.

But whether when bereft of reason he inflicted the blows which produced brain congestion or whether he died at the hands of others, the truth will probably only be known when the hearts of all are revealed—the fact remains, his unjust confinement killed him, and had he been released from incommunicado by the hand of man at the end of seventy-two hours the hand of death might not have released him at the end of 315 hours, and to-day the widow would have had the support of her husband and the means of his fatherless children would never have been heard in the land.

I therefore, conclude, saying as I have done in all previous reports about this case, that whether Dr. Ruiz killed himself or was killed by some one else, will, under the existing conditions, always remain unknown. I am very respectfully your obedient servant,

(Signed) FITZGUGH LEE.

CALHOUN ON RUIZ'S CASE.

President McKinley's Special Commissioner
Tells How He Found Things
in Cuba.

There is something about the atmosphere of Havana that, should the truth walk forth, naked and unadorned, no man would recognize it.

There are four hundred naturalized American citizens destitute at Sagua and three hundred and seventy-eight at Matanzas.

The question of Dr. Ruiz's citizenship was not involved in the investigation. The Spanish admitted that he was an American citizen. The only question with which we had to deal was whether Ruiz was killed in his cell or died insane, as was alleged.

The witnesses in the Ruiz case did not run to us; we did not have to ward off their advance.

The end of the war is not visible, and no man may prophesy the time or manner of its termination. The central and western portions of Cuba are almost a wilderness, but the insurgents are as strong and determined as ever.

The educated residents of Cuba fear independence, and the trend of opinion favors annexation with this country.

The Spanish planters are still faithful to Spain, but they would welcome peace at almost any price. It did not take long to find out that there was no truth in the report

that the insurgents were weakening.

—W. J. CALHOUN, President McKinley's Commissioner to Cuba, in an interview.

W. J. Calhoun, the special commissioner sent to Cuba three weeks ago by President McKinley to investigate the death of Dr. Ricardo Ruiz, returned to New York yesterday morning on the Ward liner Saratoga. Mr. Calhoun is of medium height, straight as an arrow. He has a strong, determined face and piercing blue eyes.

Just after the steamer left Quarantine John J. McCook, who was at one time reported as being at the head of a syndicate to purchase Cuba on behalf of the United States, boarded the vessel from a harbor tug and warmly greeted the returning commissioner. Mr. McCook declared that his object was simply to welcome the commissioner as an old friend. Mr. McCook also took occasion to again deny emphatically that he had any scheme for the purchase of Cuba or any other island. He had a very earnest confab with Mr. Calhoun.

On the way to the East River pier Mr. Calhoun found time to freely discuss the Ruiz case and the situation in war-ridden Cuba, but he was careful not to tell the official result of the investigation. From what he said, however, it was inferred that the Spanish officials would be held strictly to account for Ruiz's death.

Acted Simply as Counsel.

"My mission to Cuba was to act as counsel for Consul-General Lee in the Ruiz case and for no other purpose," said Mr. Calhoun. "It has been said," he continued, "that my work extended far beyond that, but it is not so. It is true that during my stay in Cuba I made diligent inquiry in order to inform myself as to the entire situation, but it was unofficial investigation—the same effort to get at the facts that the newspaper men have been making so long."

"First, as to the Ruiz case, I cannot say anything that would forestall the report of the Consul-General, which is contained in the mail of this vessel. You must remember that Ruiz died in a cell in Guanabacoa prison, and that he was held incommunicado up to the day of his death. He was removed from one cell in the prison to that in which he died so that the facts in the case were confined by the narrow limits of that prison cell. After his death wounds were found in his head and there were few who knew just how those wounds came there. The autopsy showed congestion of the brain."

"Was not Major Fonsdevila the Spanish Military Governor of the prison an important witness?" was asked.
"Yes," said Mr. Calhoun quickly, his eyes flashing, "but the Major was not to be had. We had reports of him during the three weeks I spent in Cuba. Sometimes he was reported to be in one column, then in another. Generally these reports were coupled with the news that he was wounded—not seriously, you understand, but enough to prevent him from coming to the investigation."

"The witnesses in the Ruiz case did not run to us, you may be sure. We did not have to ward off their advance. Witnesses? Yes, we had witnesses who said they had seen Ruiz die. They professed to know about the matter. I say professed because there were certain witnesses who knew the facts."

"Then you had great difficulty in getting at the facts?"

The Truth a Stranger.

"Difficult," repeated Mr. Calhoun. "Well, I can simply say that there is something about the atmosphere of Cuba that if the truth were to walk forth, naked and unadorned, no man would recognize it, for it would certainly be a stranger. We held the investigation in Havana, Guanabacoa and Regla, which is near the capital. We had sessions in each town, and Dr. Congosta, the Spanish Consul, at Philadelphia, acted as counsel for the Spanish authorities."

"I wish to say right here that there was not the slightest friction between Dr. Congosta and myself. In fact, the hearings were without the slightest friction from start to finish. I was treated with every courtesy by the Spanish authorities, and especially by the Marquis Ahumada, who was in authority in Havana during the Captain-General's absence in the field. The Marquis gave us every facility to carry on the inquiry."

"The question of Ruiz's citizenship did not come up at all. The Spanish admitted without question that he was a naturalized citizen of America. The question we had to settle was whether he was killed by order of the Spanish or simply died insane in his cell, as was alleged. While in Guan-

abacoa we visited the prison and examined the exact cause of Dr. Ruiz's death." "That question I cannot answer. It would trench on the report of Consul-General Lee and it would be highly improper for me to anticipate that report. All I can tell you is that we did our best to reach a correct conclusion on this subject."

"Consul General Lee presented this investigation with the greatest vigor. General Lee is one of the most sturdy Americans I ever met. He is a soldier and a gentleman in the truest sense. He has a thoroughly American spirit."

"Taking Care of the Chair."
"I may tell you that the chair mentioned as having been found in Ruiz's cell is in the Consul-General's office. It is being well taken care of, but I cannot discuss the marks reported to have been found upon it."

"Other Americans in Cuba? Yes, I looked into their cases, some in an unofficial way. There are not many native-born Americans in Cuba who are suffering, but there are hundreds, and perhaps, thousands of naturalized citizens of this country who are on the verge of starvation. In Matanzas are 378 and in Sagua 400 of these naturalized American voters who are absolutely destitute. I was not able to make a thorough personal investigation of their cases and I am dependent for my figures on the records in Consul-General Lee's office."

"The island of Cuba is to-day a sad spectacle. The central and western portions are devastated and the work of ruin is still going on. I have talked with men of all classes, and of every shade of political belief, in order to arrive, if possible, at a just conclusion. The situation was pictured in various colors, according to the belief of the party I happened to be talking with. The Spanish officials, for example, declared that the insurgent forces were daily dwindling and that the war would soon be a memory."

"From reliable sources I learned that on the contrary the insurgents were strong and as determined as ever. It is not difficult to get the opinion of the Cubans in authority to speak if they once feel that they can trust you. It is certain that the end of this war is not visible to any one in Cuba now, and no man can prophesy the time or manner of its termination."

Insurgents Still Powerful.

"It did not take me long to find that there was no truth in the talk that the insurgents were weakening—no more truth, in fact, than in the report that General Ruiz Rivera, who succeeded Maceo, had died. He is not only alive, but the wounds inflicted at the time of his capture are slowly healing. This information I obtained from a relative of General Rivera—a lady—who succeeded in visiting him in the Cabanas Prison. I have not heard that Rivera is being ill-treated. Melton, I may mention, is still in prison, but I did not see him. I heard, however, that his health has not broken down."

"As to the solution of this Cuban revolution it is hard to say; and I am not aware that my report will in any wise determine the course of the United States. Generally speaking, I think the educated residents of Cuba fear the result of entire independence. Just why, it would be hard to say, but the trend of opinion would seem to me to favor annexation to this country. They would then have a protection that independence would not give."

"The Spanish planters generally are still faithful to Spain, but they have suffered greatly by the war, and would welcome peace at almost any price. Just how they would regard intervention by the United States, or the purchase of the island by the Cubans it is hard to say. It is hard to get at the exact truth—to determine the exact feeling in Cuba on the subject."

Mr. Calhoun denied the stories alleging that he had been banquipped and feted by the Spanish officials in Havana. "I was treated courteously, and that was all," he said. "I did not see Captain-General Weyler during my stay. He was in the field all of the time."

George W. Fishback, of this city, who accompanied Mr. Calhoun as secretary, said that the only reception attended in Havana by the Commissioner was tendered by the Spanish Casino Club, and it amounted simply to a formal exchange of courtesies.

The Secretary added that the Cubans had a perfect system of "underground communication"—or, in other words, secret messengers who carried dispatches to all parts of the island, in spite of the utmost watchfulness on the part of the Spanish. An old woman in Havana who sold laces and fine notions was pointed out as one of these messengers. The Spanish had watched, but in vain. They had never

OHIO POLITICS INSPIRES THE CUBAN POLICY.

McKinley Will Try to Save His Party and Senator Hanna from Defeat by a Bold
Defiance of Spain.

President to Declare His "Vigorous Policy" When It Will
Do the Most Good During the
Coming Campaign.

By James Creelman.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, June 7.—Out of the hard times which threaten to engulf the fortunes of the Republican party in Ohio springs the hope of the Cuban Republic. I have just received from a source second only in authority to the President himself a confirmation of the fact that Mr. McKinley is preparing the way for a declaration in favor of the absolute independence of Cuba. Not only is the President fully convinced that the war must be stopped, and that it can only be stopped by the withdrawal of Spain from the unhappy island, but he recognizes the fact that when the Tariff bill is passed the great stress of commercial, industrial and agricultural misery in Ohio and other States will stimulate another fury of free silver agitation, and that his party will go down at the polls before it in the Fall unless the mind of the people is diverted by a sudden and sensational demand upon Spain, followed by a war situation.

The President knows that it will be useless to attempt to delay matters, for the reason that when the regular session of Congress begins the Morgan resolution recognizing the belligerency of Cuba, which has passed the Senate, will then be passed by the House of Representatives, and he will be compelled to sign or veto. Meanwhile Senator Hanna and the Administration will be repudiated by the people in Ohio.

I have travelled over a good part of this State, and I find that the country at large had no conception of the depression, and suffering continues everywhere in spite of the near prospect of a new tariff law. The Republican party is in a state of panic here. If the elections were to be held to-morrow, I believe that last year's Republican plurality of more than fifty thousand votes would be changed to a Democratic plurality of not less than twenty-five thousand. Nothing can stop the rush to the free silver cause, not the generalship of Senator Hanna, not the enormous surplus fund of the National Committee, not the glittering hope of Federal patronage—nothing but a war with Spain, or at least a threat of war.

To Propose Independence with an Indemnity.

It is the President's intention, so I am informed, to propose to Spain within a few days that the independence of the Republic shall be acknowledged, and that the Spanish monarchy shall have guaranteed to it a suitable money indemnity for the loss of its public works in the island. But while I was in Madrid, a few months ago, I talked with the leading Spanish statesmen of both parties on the subject, and I know that any proposition of the kind offered by the United States would be spurned resentfully, no matter whether Canovas or Sagasta were in power. No Ministry would dare to consider such a scheme, especially when it was advanced by the United States, the common target of Spanish prejudice and hatred.

Any suggestion that Spain might be willing to receive money as the price of her sovereignty in Cuba would be regarded as an insult by the Spanish people and their leaders in and out of the Government. The President could take no further step without instantly provoking a war or a war situation.

Mr. McKinley has fully made up his mind that Senator Hanna shall be victorious in Ohio this year, and that there shall be no danger of a repudiation in his State. Senator Hanna has assured Senator after Senator that the President intends to go much further than the point contemplated in the Morgan resolution. In no other matter has he shown an active interest or a disposition to personally interfere as in the effort to delay action in regard to Cuba. He has said in the plainest language that the President desired to take action at a time to be selected by the executive branch of the Government. The situation in Ohio shows clearly that there will be just enough time before election day to insure a national frenzy of patriotism and consequent indorsement of the Administration at the polls.

Meanwhile Senator Hanna is rapidly getting control of the Republican organization of the State in his hands, and his political dictatorship is assured. Here and there are to be found local fights against him like that headed by Mayor McKisson in Cleveland. But Mr. McKisson is a mere whiff, a political pinhead, an inflated accident in politics, and to-day his County Committee of Fifteen had to abandon the proposition to make a fight on Hanna's name directly in the primaries.

Counties Which Have Endorsed Hanna.

The following twenty-eight counties have already elected delegates to the State Convention: Pike, Ashtabula, Athens, Auglaize, Clark, Clinton, Columbiana, Darke, Defiance, Fayette, Gallia, Guernsey, Highland, Hocking, Vinton, Holmes, Jackson, Lake, Logan, ercer, Morgan, Muskingum, Paulding, Putnam, Ross, Shelby, Van Wert and Warren. Every one of these counties has indorsed Mr. Hanna for Senator. This makes one-third of the State, and so far Mr. Hanna's position as master of Republican politics in Ohio is supreme. Senator Foraker's friends have had some hope that the delegations to the State Convention from the larger counties might be sufficient to offset Mr. Hanna's victories elsewhere. But it is now certain that Mr. Hanna will control the delegates from Hamilton County, or a majority of them.

The Republican National Committee is practically directing the fight throughout the State against Senator Foraker's leadership. The new maker of the President will name the State Committee, and as the party in Ohio will henceforth be obedient to his will, Senator Foraker is beaten.

"Oh, Jeanne Baptiste, pourquels?
Oh, Jeanne Baptiste, pourquoi?
Oh, Jeanne Baptiste, pourquoi?
My little dog's nose with tar?"

Mr. McConville, the suave and untiring chairman of the Democratic State Committee, reports that the increase of the Democratic organizations in the State is simply astounding—beyond all expectation. The Democratic candidates for Governor rise, with no one in the lead, unless the movement in favor of Mr. Rice, the eloquent young Mayor of Canton, may be said to give him a preponderance of position. There is a disposition on the part of the Populists and that part of the regular Democracy most friendly to Populism to antagonize John R. McLean, who so far is the only candidate for the United States Senate who has a serious chance.

Mr. Holding, the State chairman of the gold Democracy, tells me that his committee will probably not meet until after Republican and Democratic State conventions have been held. He says that it is practically certain that no independent State ticket will be nominated by the gold Democrats. The fact is, and any one who comes to Ohio can find it out for himself, that both the Populists and gold Democrats have been largely absorbed by the regular Democracy, and that if they should put tickets in the field they would simply demonstrate their lack of a following.

been able to get any evidence against her. Mr. Fishback made one significant statement. "We did not go within the insurgent lines," he said, "but all the insurgents, however, are not within the lines." Commissioner Calhoun, accompanied by Mr. McCook and Mr. Fishback, entered a carriage at the pier and was driven to the Waldorf Hotel. He will report on board the Saratoga at 10 o'clock this morning, which will mark the expiration of five days since his departure from Cuba. This for-

mality is necessary, as Mr. Calhoun brought no certificate of health from Dr. Burgess, the Health Officer in Havana. After reporting Mr. Calhoun will be free to proceed to Washington, and he will take the first train for the Capitol. His report to President McKinley will be verbal.

North Shore Limited, New York Central's morning train to Chicago, Leave Grand Central Station 10:00, arrive Buffalo 3:40 p. m., Chicago next morning at 9:00, by Michigan Central—Advt.